

Amendments to the Specification:

Please amend the specification as follows:

Please amend the paragraph starting on page 1, lines 7-26, beginning with the word “In” and ending with the word “portion”, as follows:

In the optical fiber cleaving technology, there has been known a cleaving device comprising a pair of clamp sections arranged maintaining a predetermined gap, a moving blade section capable of bringing the edge thereof to a fiber cleaving position defined between the clamp sections, and a moving pusher section capable of bringing the pushing faces thereof to the fiber cleaving position independently of the blade section, which are arranged on a base section (see, e.g., a patent document 1, U.S. Pat. No. 5,395,025). In the cleaving process by using this cleaving device, first, the sheath of the optical fiber is, first, removed from an end thereof over a desired length to expose the fiber, and this unsheathed optical fiber is supported in a fixed manner on the pair of clamp sections so as to extend therebetween. In this state, the blade section is moved straight on the base section in a direction at right angles with the unsheathed optical fiber to score (scribe), by using the edge thereof, the outer surface of the cladding at a target point of the unsheathed optical fiber placed at the fiber cleaving position nearly at right angles with the axis of the fiber. Then, the blade section is moved away from the fiber cleaving position, the pusher section is caused to swing on the base section such that the pushing faces forcibly enter into the fiber cleaving position, and a pushing force is exerted on the unsheathed optical fiber supported between the clamp sections from the side opposite to the score. Then, the tensile stress generates in the unsheathed optical fiber with the score as a center, and the unsheathed optical fiber is cleaved and cut at the predetermined portion.

On page 1, please delete the paragraphs that start on line 27 with the words “Patent Document 1” and end on line 28 with the words “Specification of U.S. Patent No. 5395025”.

Please amend the paragraph starting on page 2, line 17 with the word “There” ending on page 3, line 2 with the word “fiber”, as follows:

There has further been proposed a cleaving device of the above type featuring a general applicability to deal with unsheathed optical fibers of a plurality of types having different outer diameters by producing an optimum tensile stress relying upon the pushing action of the pushing section after the cladding has been scribed (see, e.g., a patent document 2, JP Unexamined Patent Publication (Kokai) No. 6-294914). In this cleaving device, a pair of clamp sections disposed on the base section are so constituted as to be selectively moved in the directions of approaching each other and separating away from each other. Further, each clamp section is constituted by a clamp plate moving on the base section and a holder plate detachably mounted on the clamp plate. The gap between the clamp sections is adjusted to an optimum value depending upon the outer diameter of the unsheathed optical fiber that is to be cleaved. Upon replacing the holder plate by the one having an optimum width, cleaved surfaces (end surfaces of the unsheathed fiber) of a high quality can be formed on the unsheathed optical fibers of dissimilar outer diameters by optimizing the curvatures of deflection at the time of cleavage by the pushing force. The cleaving device described in the patent document 2 further has a holding plate for holding the unsheathed optical fiber in a contacting manner on the side opposite to the edge of the blade section at the time of scribing the outer surface of the cladding of the unsheathed optical fiber.

On page 2, please delete the paragraphs that start on line 3 with the words “Patent Document 2” and end on line 4 with the words “Japanese Unexamined Patent Publication (Kokai) No. 6-294914”.

Please amend the paragraph starting on page 3, line 22 with the word “In” ending on page 4, line 6 with the word “position”, as follows:

In order to accomplish the above object, the invention as set forth ~~in claim 1~~ herein provides an optical fiber cleaving device comprising a base section, a pair of clamp sections provided on said base section and spaced at a predetermined distance from each other for supporting an unsheathed optical fiber extending therebetween, a blade section provided movably relative to said base section and including an edge capable of being disposed at a fiber cleaving

position defined between said clamp sections, and a pusher section provided movably relative to said base section independently of said blade section and including a pushing face capable of being disposed at said fiber cleaving position, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said optical fiber cleaving device comprises an auxiliary support section provided movably relative to said base section independently of said blade section and said pusher section, and capable of being disposed at an operable position for supporting an unsheathed optical fiber in cooperation with said clamp sections; and that said auxiliary support section includes a fiber support face locally located between said clamp sections at said operable position, said fiber support face being so arranged as to come in contact with a local length of an unsheathed optical fiber extending between said clamp sections, the local length being located away from said fiber cleaving position.

Please amend the paragraph starting on page 4, lines 7-13, beginning with the word “An” and ending with the word “fiber”, as follows:

An invention as set forth ~~in claim 2~~ herein provides the optical fiber cleaving device of ~~claim 1~~ that described above, wherein said auxiliary support section comprises a thin plate member including said fiber support face, a relief area formed adjacent to said fiber support face so as to be free of contact with a second local length of said unsheathed optical fiber located at said fiber cleaving position, and a holdable area formed adjacent to said fiber support face so as to be supported by said clamp sections together with said unsheathed optical fiber.

Please amend the paragraph starting on page 4, lines 14-17, beginning with the word “An” and ending with the word “holder”, as follows:

An invention as set forth ~~in claim 3~~ herein provides the optical fiber cleaving device of ~~claim 2~~ that described above, further comprising a fiber holder detachably mounted on said base for holding an optical fiber to be cleaved, said thin plate member being attached to said fiber holder.

Please amend the paragraph starting on page 4, lines 18-22, beginning with the word “An” and ending with the word “thereof”, as follows:

An invention as set forth ~~in claim 4~~ herein provides the optical fiber cleaving device of ~~claim 1~~ that described above, further comprising a cover section coupled to said base section in an openable/closable manner, wherein said auxiliary support section comprises a piece member movably attached to said cover section and including said fiber support face in one end face thereof.

Please amend the paragraph starting on page 4, lines 23-27, beginning with the word “An” and ending with the word “thereof”, as follows:

An invention as set forth ~~in claim 5~~ herein provides the optical fiber cleaving device of ~~claim 1~~ that described above, further comprising a cover section coupled to said base section in an openable/closable manner, wherein said auxiliary support section comprises a disc member rotatably attached to said cover section and including said fiber support face in an outer peripheral surface thereof.

Please amend the paragraph starting on page 4, lines 28-32, beginning with the word “An” and ending with the word “faces”, as follows:

An invention as set forth in ~~claim 6~~ herein provides the optical fiber cleaving device of ~~claim 5~~ that described above, wherein said disk member is provided in said outer peripheral surface with a plurality of fiber support faces having different sizes in a rotation-axis direction and an inoperable face arranged to be deviated toward a rotation center relative to said fiber support faces.

Please amend the paragraph starting on page 5, lines 1-15, beginning with the word “An” and ending with the word “point”, as follows:

An invention as set forth in ~~claim 7~~ herein provides a method for cleaving optical fibers, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the method comprises providing a pair of clamp sections capable of respectively supporting an unsheathed optical fiber, and spacing said clamp sections at a predetermined distance from each other; providing an auxiliary support member including a fiber

support face capable of supporting an unsheathed optical fiber in cooperation with said clamp sections; supporting an unsheathed optical fiber on said clamp sections so as to extend between said clamp sections; securely arranging said auxiliary support member relative to said clamp sections in a manner that said fiber support face come in contact with a first local length of said unsheathed optical fiber extending between said clamp sections; locally scribing a surface of a target point in a second local length of said unsheathed optical fiber, adjacent to said first local length, between said clamp sections in a direction generally perpendicular to an axis of said unsheathed optical fiber; and applying a pushing force to said second local length of said unsheathed optical fiber in a radial direction between said clamp sections, so as to cleave said unsheathed optical fiber at said target point.

Please delete the paragraph heading on page 10, line 10, and replace it with the paragraph heading as follows:

~~Mode for Carrying Out the Invention~~ Detailed Description

Please delete the paragraph heading on page 32, line 12, entitled “Effect of the Invention.”

Please amend the paragraph starting on page 32, lines 13-22, beginning with the word “According” and ending with the word “applicability”, as follows:

According to the present invention as will be ~~obvious~~ apparent from the foregoing description, there is provided an optical fiber cleaving device for cleaving an unsheathed optical fiber extending between the clamp sections by scribing the surface thereof with the edge of the blade section and then pushing it, wherein scores are easily and reliably imparted to the surfaces of the unsheathed fibers to a degree necessary and sufficient for forming mirror-like end surfaces at right angles at the ends of the optical fibers having different unsheathed fiber structures without changing the relative positional relationship between the clamp sections and the blade section, excluding the probability of a decrease in the life of the edge of the blade section and offering general applicability.

On page 33, please delete the paragraphs that start on line 1 with the words “Description of Reference Numerals” and end on line 23 with the words “150 ... inoperable face”.